

TUESDAY

U.S. won't judge Soviet shift

By **Berry Schweid**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration voiced support Monday for pro-democracy demonstrators in Moscow and for political pluralism as Secretary of State James Baker III headed to the Soviet capital for wide-ranging talks.

The State Department refrained from any direct appraisal of the power shifts contemplated by the Central Committee of the Communist Party, but said demonstrators who called on the party to relinquish some of its powers were asserting a right to

participate in the nation's political process.

With Baker due in Moscow for talks beginning Wednesday night, administration officials shied away from making any judgments about the party's deliberations, which began Monday with President Mikhail Gorbachev's call for a loosening of the party's control.

His landmark speech followed perhaps the largest protest in Moscow since the Bolshevik revolution. At least 200,000 impassioned citizens marched to the Kremlin on Sunday, demanding that the party embrace reform and end its exclusive control of

the government.

Margaret Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, called the turnout "a measure of the new openness in the Soviet system" and said the Soviet people "felt free enough to march for the rights of greater political participation in the political process."

She added: "Our dream for all people, including the Soviet people, is political pluralism and free market economies."

Similarly, Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said: "We welcome political pluralism, but it's difficult to say exactly what the demonstrations yester-

day meant. But there, again, we aren't going to offer any comment that might be disruptive in terms of the (Communist Party) plenum that they're just starting today."

Asked about a potential change in the Soviet Constitution, ending the party's iron grip on power, Fitzwater said: "That's an internal matter. We will not comment on it."

Baker will compare notes with European allies before talks with Gorbachev and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, talks held in the shadow of burgeoning sentiment for Germany reunification.

Before going to Moscow, Baker is paying a 27-hour visit to Czechoslovakia, where a Velvet Revolution smoothly transferred power last year from a hard-line government to reformers headed by playwright Vaclav Havel.

The secretary of state will meet with Shevardnadze in Moscow Wednesday evening through Saturday, when Baker will make an unprecedented appearance before the Soviet parliament's International Affairs Committee to answer questions.

■ Editorial/7A



Photo/LEIDNER STUDIO

She's found a way to get into Shape

Karen Foxgrover looks happy, and indeed she is. After two broken legs and a bout with depression, the Madison woman has reclaimed her health and well-being. When she told her story to Shape magazine, its editors decided it was fit for print. For more on the story behind Shape's story, turn to Look/1C.

STATE



State Journal photo/L. ROGER TURNER

Dogging it at Dells

Signs outside a Wisconsin Dells fast-food restaurant promote the area's attractions, which include the Wisconsin Dells Greyhound Park. The \$7.6-million dog track is expected to be completed in April and is scheduled to be the first of five such tracks to open across the state. More photos/1D.

MONEY

Who's No. 1 lender?

Valley Bank came out the big winner as area lenders shuffled their shares of the mortgage loan business in Dane County last year. Details/8B.

MGE is streamlining its operation. Job cutbacks will lead to rate cuts for electric and gas customers. Details/8B.

THE DOW JONES
19.82
Page 6B

NATION

Is anyone out there?

NASA has finally given a small group of researchers the money it needs to scan the sky, listening for faint transmissions that might signal life in other parts of the universe. Details/4A.

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

"It would be inconceivable... to exempt Mr. Reagan from the duty of every citizen to give evidence that will permit the reaching of a just outcome of this criminal prosecution."

U.S. District Judge Harold Greene Ordering former President Reagan to give a videotaped deposition for the Iran-Contra trial of John Poindexter. Details/3A

INSIDE

■ World news/5A
■ Opinion/7A

SPECIAL

■ Morning Briefing/2B
■ Scoreboard/4B

MONEY/8B

■ Stock markets/6B

LOOK

■ Movie listings/3C
■ Comics/4C
■ TV/Radio/5C

METRO/STATE

■ Area briefs/2D
■ Obituaries/4D
■ Classified/5D



TODAY'S FORECAST
Sunny early. Increasing clouds late in the day. High 41. Becoming mostly cloudy tonight with a chance of flurries late. Low 28. Details/Back page.

Treaty setback seen

Anti-casino ruling a blow to Indians

By **Jeff Meyers**

State government reporter

Gov. Tommy Thompson linked an Indian gambling controversy to the divisive spearfishing issue Monday, while legislative leaders predicted an anti-casino gambling opinion from Attorney General Don Hanaway would worsen uneasy state-tribal relations.

"Obviously, it's going to hurt relations," said Senate Majority Leader Joseph Stroh, D-Racine.

"It'll be difficult to build up trust in spearfishing negotiations from here on out," added Assembly Speaker Thomas Loftus, D-Sun Prairie, referring to state and community efforts to lessen tensions in the North Woods this spring. "I think the Indians were acting in good faith."

Thompson, a Republican who says he's opposed to casino gambling for Indians and non-Indians, hoped for the best but conceded: "There's no question the tribes are going to be upset about the ruling."

He said there would have to be talks to smooth relations and possibly renegotiate federally mandated state-tribal gaming agreements that were all but killed by Hanaway's opinion.

Hanaway said in his opinion that Las Vegas-style gaming was illegal in Wisconsin — on and off Indian reservations. But he said the Legislature — without going to voters in a constitutional referendum — could legalize such gaming as video poker and similar games, slot machines, blackjack, poker, roulette, craps and bingo-related games called "bingo-lette" and "bingo-jack."

Hanaway's opinion could help along bills to expand gambling beyond lottery and dog racing in the state, but one gambling booster in the Legislature doubted it because of the state's growing surplus.

"I personally welcome the news," said Sen. Joseph Andrea, D-Kenosha, who wants to legalize video poker and riverboat gambling. "But it's tough to pass a gambling bill when we're in the black."

The proposed state-tribal gaming agreements, which would legally open up casino gambling on most reservations, have been stalled since October, when they became embroiled in the Chippewa treaty rights issue and debate over a failed \$50-million settlement with the Lac du Flambeau. Tribal officials say casino gambling will add jobs to the reservation and boost struggling Indian and white economies in rural Wisconsin.

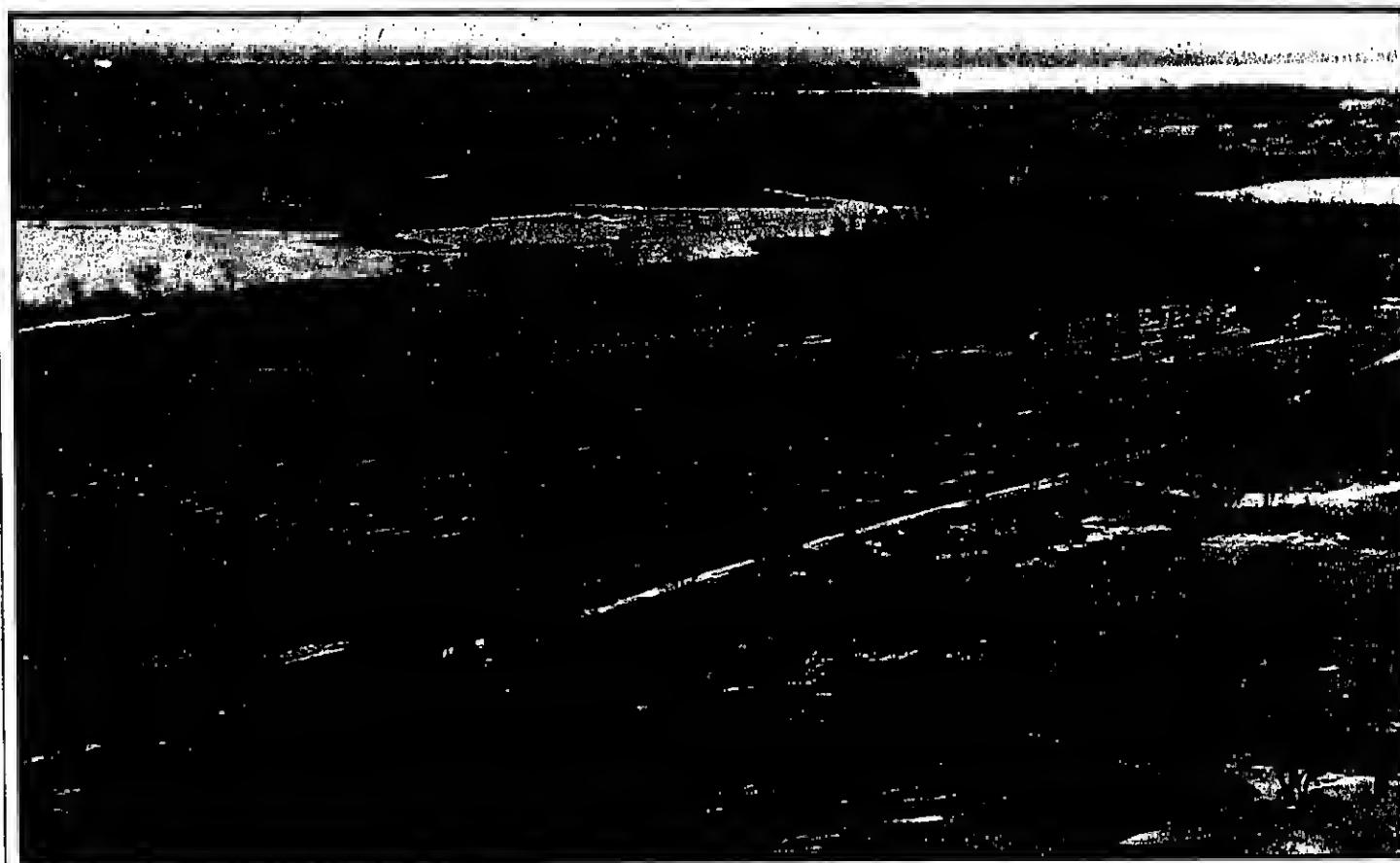
But Hanaway threw the political hot potato

Please turn to Page 2A, Col. 1

■ Editorial/7A

■ Hanaway competency questioned/1D

Marsh development rejected



State Journal photo

A plan to develop this town of Westport site overlooking Cherokee Marsh into an upscale suburban neighborhood was rejected by the Madison Plan Commission on Monday. The North Side Madison development bordering Dane County's largest remaining marsh has drawn expressions of concern from environmentalists. The developers planned to buy 200 acres from the group that runs the

Yahara Center and develop 73 of the acres into 101 lots. The photograph looks to the south toward the marsh. River Road can be seen in the foreground; the Yahara Center building is next to the parking lot at the right, south of River Road. The homes would be built roughly where the rows of evergreens are located.

City rejects marsh subdivision

By **Tim Kelley**

City government reporter

A Madison commission on Monday sided with environmentalists to oppose a local developer's plan to build 101 upscale houses bordering Dane County's largest remaining marsh.

The Madison Plan Commission rejected Glenn Hovde's plan to build on 73 acres in the town of Westport, north of the Cherokee marsh.

The planned development would add to urban sprawl that threatens to encircle much of the marsh, a 5-square-mile wetland that is home to a variety of flora and fauna, commission members said.

"This is sprawl in one of Dane County's treasures," commission member Ken Opin said of the plan.

"We don't need to lose one of our most valuable assets — the environment," agreed Mary Lang-Sollinger, another commission member.

Area residents said they didn't want to see any development of land currently owned by the Adult Christian Education Foundation, operator of the Yahara Center.

"It was a lifetime dream of (neighbors) that it could be saved" from development, said Naomi Whiteside, who has

lived on a neighboring 150-acre farm since the 1940s.

Whiteside made an offer to buy the land, but she couldn't afford the financially troubled foundation's \$850,000 asking price.

Hovde and partner Edward Busse could.

Madison's North Side needs quality housing to keep pace with business growth, Busse said. "We feel that the time really is now for the subdivision," he said.

Hovde and Busse have won support from town of Westport and Dane County officials. But Plan Commission members rejected the plan, using their authority to regulate development within three miles of city borders.

Hovde also will be able to plead his case to the Madison City Council at its meeting Feb. 20. But 15 of 22 members must support Hovde's plan to overrule the Plan Commission. Council rejection would kill the plan.

Eight people registered in favor of the plan at a meeting Monday; 30 registered in opposition. Among the objections cited by speakers:

■ The development would thwart city planners' goal to leave undeveloped strips

of "green space" around the edges of the city, said Bradley Murphy, Madison planning director.

■ The development could disturb plant and animal habitat and decrease area water quality, said Pam Porter, Madison Audubon Society executive secretary.

■ Storm water and melting snow with road salt and other contaminants could drain from the development into the marsh, others said.

■ Hovde couldn't guarantee that he would be able to get public sewer and water services for the project, Murphy said. Unsewered developments use septic systems that may let waste seep into ground water, others said.

■ The development would be built in an area that would be difficult to serve with bus service, police patrols and fire department help, Murphy said.

Hovde and architect Don Mayo said the plan wouldn't destroy any wetlands. About 127 of the 200 acres purchased from the religious group would remain undeveloped, Hovde said. He provided documents he said proved that the area could be hooked up to public sewer and water systems.

■ St. Mary's expansion advances/1D

Lawmakers pressed to act on tax rebate

By **Doug Meil**
and **Jeff Meyers**

State government reporters

The property-tax battle officially hits the Legislature today, and the state's revenue secretary wants a quick response so April rebate checks are mailed according to schedule.

Mark Bugher, secretary of the state Department of Revenue, said Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson's proposal to increase by \$100 million the school property tax-rent credit rebate will be sent today to the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee.

Bugher said action on the proposal is needed by mid-February so checks can be mailed to 1.4 million eligible households by April 30. State officials had

planned to mail the checks April 23.

"The public out there is expecting a larger amount and expects the Legislature to act (quickly)," Bugher said.

But Assembly Speaker Thomas Loftus, D-Sun Prairie, said he felt under no obligation to act quickly and that it wouldn't matter much if the checks go out a couple weeks later than planned.

Loftus, Thompson's likely Democratic opponent this fall, said he was "not really enamored" with Thompson's rebate-boosting plan. He also pointed out that "these checks (originally) were a Democratic proposal."

Thompson's plan "does nothing about property tax relief," said Loftus, adding that he plans next

week to suggest some other ideas for using surplus money. The Finance Committee is due to consider the rebate proposal Feb. 14, Loftus said.

"I was hoping to do something a little more fundamental," Loftus said, conceding that Thompson's plan would be tough politically to stop. "It would be almost impossible to stand in its way," Loftus said.

Under the Thompson proposal, the rebate that now averages \$139 would increase to \$220. The maximum rebate — based on a percentage of property taxes paid and reported to the state in 1987 and 1988 — would increase from \$260 to \$410.

The Thompson plan also includes a provision spending some

\$92 million this year of state lottery proceeds. Thompson has proposed that a credit be added to property-tax bills next December that would pay about 2.4 percent of a person's net tax liability.

Democrats, however, aren't going to rubber-stamp the proposal.

"My guess is that (Bugher's warning) is a shallow attempt by the administration to force us to play our hand quickly," said Rep. Joseph Wineke, D-Verona.

"The only person I blame is Tommy Thompson," Wineke said. "They came up with an 11th-hour proposal... and they don't have it written out," said Wineke, chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee that oversees tax plans.

A major complaint about the administration's proposal is that some 80,000 people who have no income-tax liability wouldn't receive the rebate checks because income-tax forms contain the information to compute the rebates. Also, about 500,000 people wouldn't benefit from the lottery tax credit next year because they aren't property owners.

Wineke said he wouldn't be surprised to see the maximum rebate check be up to \$400, a slight reduction from what Thompson proposed. It's likely that the lottery credit will be dumped, he said, in favor of a plan that more people could benefit from.

The Loftus plan will address the burden that property taxes are placing on education, Wineke said.